

**TRADE AGREEMENT WITH FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY**

\*346. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any trade agreement has been signed recently between India and the Federal Republic of Germany; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO KERALA STATE TO MAINTAIN RAILWAY LEVEL CROSSING**

\*347. SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any communication from the Government of Kerala for the allotment of additional funds to maintain level-crossing within the state; and

(b) if so, the Government of India's reaction thereto"]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) A request for additional allotment for reimbursement of expenditure from Railway Safety Works Fund has been received.

(b) The distribution of the amount available under this Fund to States is made according to the formula recommended by the last Railway Convention Committee and approved by Parliament. Additional allotment cannot, therefore, be made.

**INSPECTION AND MARKETING OFFICERS AT COFFEE CURING WORKS**

\* 348. SHRI K. S. MALLE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coffee Board have appointed an Assistant Coffee Marketing Officer and Inspector to each of the Coffee Curing Works; if so, the nature of their duties;

(b) whether any cases of corruption have been reported against them, if so the number and nature thereof; and

(c) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that quality of Indian Coffee released for sale at home and abroad has been found to be of poorer quality than, it was in earlier years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) to (c) A statement containing the required information is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The Coffee Board accorded sanction for the following posts for each of the Coffee Curing Works with effect from 4th October 1971:—

(i) *For handling 3,000 tonnes or more of coffee:*

Assistant Coffee Marketing Inspector	1 post
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(ii) *For handling less than 3,000 tonnes of Coffee,:*

Chief Inspector	1 post
Assistant Inspector	1 post

In most of the cases officers have reported for duty and some are under orders of posting. The duties of these officers relate to supervision of deliveries of coffee to the pool, supervisions over curing operations, drawal of samples for classification and assessment purposes, inspection of godowns and screening of coffee for export, drawal of sample for valuation of panel of assessors, etc.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) A Coffee Market Survey Delegation which visited West European countries in August, 1971 was informed by some importers of Indian coffee that there was a slight decline in the quality of Indian coffee in recent years. Coffee Board has, therefore, set up a Technical Committee to go into this question and make suitable recommendations to improve the general quality of Indian coffee.